

INFORMATION BULLETIN (00-25 revised)
Sustainable Fisheries Division
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NMFS REDUCES CERTAIN OBSERVER COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
MULTISPECIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA FISHERIES

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issues an inseason adjustment under 50 CFR 679.50(e) reducing certain observer coverage requirements for the Multispecies Community Development Quota (MS CDQ) fisheries, according to Steven Pennoyer, Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS.

After reviewing the first year of the MS CDQ fisheries, NMFS believes that reductions in some CDQ observer coverage requirements could be made without reducing the quality or quantity of data collected by observers to manage the CDQ fisheries. This action would remove the requirement for a CDQ observer in some shoreside processing plants; reduce the requirement from a lead CDQ observer to a CDQ observer at other shoreside processing plants and on some catcher vessels; and allow the CDQ observer on some catcher vessels to monitor the delivery in the shoreside processing plant.

The attached table compares current CDQ observer coverage requirements in 50 CFR 679.50 with the temporary revisions that are made under this in-season adjustment.

This action is effective March 6, 2000 through December 31, 2000. Additional information may be obtained from the Federal Register notice announcing the inseason adjustment (65 FR 8890, February 23, 2000), which is available on the Alaska Region's web site at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov>.

This information bulletin provides notice that a regulatory change has occurred. Do not rely upon it to guide you in complying with the new regulatory change.

Temporary Revisions in Observer Coverage and Experience Requirements for the CDQ Fisheries, Effective Through December 31, 2000. (Comparison of Requirements in 50 CFR 679 with Revised Requirements).

Category	CDQ Observer Requirements Currently in 50 CFR 679.50	Revised Requirements in Effect through 12/31/00
Catcher, < 60 ft, any gear	none	none
Catcher, \$ 60 ft, trawl gear	1 lead CDQ observer	1 CDQ observer
Catcher, \$ 60 ft, nontrawl gear, Option 1 ^{1/}	1 lead CDQ observer	1 CDQ observer
Catcher, \$ 60 ft, nontrawl gear, Option 2 ^{2/}	1 lead CDQ observer	no change
Catcher/processor, trawl and motherships	1 lead CDQ and 1 CDQ observer	no change
Catcher/processor, longline, pot	1 lead CDQ and 1 CDQ observer	no change
Shoreside processor ^{3/} , deliveries from vessels using trawl gear	1 lead CDQ obs. for each CDQ delivery	1 CDQ observer for each CDQ delivery
Shoreside processor, deliveries from vessels using nontrawl gear, Option 1 ^{1/}	1 lead CDQ obs. for each CDQ delivery	1 CDQ observer for each CDQ delivery; may use vessel CDQ obs. under certain circumstances. ^{4/}
Shoreside processor, deliveries from vessels using nontrawl gear, Option 2 ^{2/}	1 lead CDQ obs for each CDQ delivery	no CDQ observer required for delivery

1/ Option 1 refers to the CDQ catch accounting option that requires the vessel operator to retain all groundfish CDQ and salmon PSQ and deliver it to a processor where it is sorted by species, weighed, and reported to NMFS. Under this option, CDQ catch accounting data is based on the processor's reports for groundfish CDQ and salmon PSQ and on the observer data for halibut PSQ, if applicable.

2/ Option 2 refers to the CDQ catch accounting option under which the CDQ group chooses to use data collected by the vessel CDQ observer to estimate the catch of all groundfish CDQ and PSQ. Under this option, catch may be discarded at sea and the processor's reports of landed catch weight are not used as the basis for CDQ catch accounting.

3/ Includes stationary floating processors.

4/ Instead of having a separate observer for the shoreplant, the vessel observer may monitor sorting and weighing of CDQ delivery as long as working hour limitations for the vessel observer are not exceeded.